

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1-25. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims.

26. (New) A reclining chair, comprising:

a seating base supported by a plurality of legs;

a backrest having an upper backrest portion and a lower backrest portion, said backrest positioned above a rear edge of the seating base such that a bottom surface of the upper backrest portion is above a top surface of the lower backrest portion;

a hinge having a pivoting rod horizontally extending between the upper backrest portion and the lower backrest portion with a leaf of said hinge affixed to the lower backrest portion and another leaf of said hinge affixed to the upper backrest portion; and

at least one resilient means interposed between the bottom surface of the upper backrest portion and the top surface of the bottom backrest portion;

whereby the hinge and the resilient means allow the backrest to recline according to pressure exerted by a user and to revert to its original position upon removal of said pressure.

27. (New) The chair of claim 26, wherein the hinge is a leaf-hinge having two leaves connected to the pivoting rod which the pivoting rod is disposed between the two leaves.

28. (New) The chair of claim 27, wherein the pivoting rod is positioned between the bottom surface of the upper backrest and the top surface of the lower backrest with the resilient means positioned at the front and back of the pivoting rod, wherein the axis of reclination is the pivoting rod.

29. (New) The chair of claim 27, wherein the pivoting rod is positioned between a bottom front edge of the upper backrest and a top front edge of the lower backrest with the resilient means positioned behind the pivoting rod, wherein the axis of reclination is the pivoting rod.

30. (New) The chair of claim 29, wherein the bottom front edge of the upper backrest portion is chamfered to provide an inverted wedge opening at a back plate of the backrest within which wedge opening resides the resilient means.

31. (New) The chair of claim 26, wherein the lower backrest portion forms a rear edge of the seating base.

32. (New) A chair with a reclining mechanism comprising:

a sitting base supported by a plurality of legs;

a backrest including a bottom backrest portion connected to the sitting base, and an upper backrest portion connected by a joint to the bottom backrest portion; and

at least one resilient means incorporated between the top and bottom portions of the backrest, said resilient means comprising a non-torsional spring-bias element and arranged to be compressible in any position of the upper backrest portion of the backrest except along a substantially vertical direction;

wherein the resilient means allows the backrest to recline according to pressure exerted by a user, and to revert to its original position upon removal of said pressure.

33. (New) The chair of claim 32, wherein the upper backrest portion is above the lower backrest portion with the resilient means incorporated in a gap between the upper and lower backrest portions.

34. (New) The chair of claim 33, wherein the joint connecting the lower backrest portion and the upper backrest portion is a hinge, said hinge comprising metal rods inserted inside the backrest portions and hinged between the two portions of the backrest such that the point of rotation for reclining is provided by the hinge.

35. (New) The chair of claim 34, wherein a bottom edge of the upper backrest portion is chamfered to provide an inverted wedge opening at a back plate of the backrest within which wedge opening resides the resilient means.

36. (New) The chair of claim 34, wherein the lower backrest portion forms a rear-edge of the seating base.

37. (New) The chair of claim 32, wherein the resilient means comprises at least one rubber block.